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7 February 1961

THRU : Ch/S/TR
THRU : Ch/D/S
THRU : Ch/ERA
Ch/St/CS

Support by S/TR for Current Intelligence

1. This memorandum is to point out again--while fiscal 1962 programming is underway--the dependence of other parts of CIA on S/TR for current information on Bloc shipping. This memorandum may also serve as a commendation for [REDACTED] S/TR.

2. Several years ago, in the interest of efficiency, S/TR, St/CS and OCI (represented by Military Division) agreed to settle responsibility for bloc merchant shipping in S/TR. With this agreement, St/CS and all OCI shops cut themselves out of receipt of most of the source material, eliminated files, and became dependent upon S/TR. This arrangement has worked extremely well and [REDACTED] who has been charged with most of the actual effort should again receive congratulations. 25X1A9a

3. The effort required is growing because the scope of the activity under examination--especially bloc arms traffic which depends heavily on the merchant shipping material for evaluation and analysis--is growing and because additional use is being made of the materials provided by S/TR.

While the first reason for the growing effort needs little explanation here, the increasing use made of the materials deserves a brief statement.

25X1A9a During the summer of 1960, covert reporting on bloc arms deliveries to Cuba was very bad. After discussion with [REDACTED]--which led to discussion with FI Staff personnel--additional DDP personnel were cleared for special materials and FI reports officers began checking with ORR for reasonableness per special materials of some covert reports. Eventually, this led to operational personnel attempting to also utilize this material to make collection plans. Both of these uses, as well as current intelligence publication, involve responsive up-to-the-minute collation of all available materials.

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4. During fiscal 1961 S/TR allocated 1000 hours for this task. Time actually utilized is unknown to St/CS. In preparing S/TR program for fiscal 1962 'tis respectfully suggested, however, that the value to the Agency as a whole, the growing scope of the task, and what is believed to be an Office intention to expand the effort devoted to the Bloc arms trade all be kept in mind. Please note, again, that the information provided by S/TR has been the essential information in the whole process of collation, analysis, and reporting of Bloc arms traffic.

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